

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A direct printing method, comprising steps of:

connecting directly a digital camera storing an image data file and a printer operable to perform a print operation via a USB cable;

confirming whether an extended function in a predetermined print control protocol is executable in both of the digital camera and the printer;

generating a control information item including a script which is described by a markup language while inserting an extension tag corresponding to the extended function into the script, in a case where it is confirmed the extended function is executable;

generating a control information item including a script which is described by a markup language without inserting an extension tag corresponding to the extended function into the script, in a case where it is confirmed the extended function is not executable;

communicating, between the digital camera and printer via the USB cable, the control information item;

transmitting, from the digital camera to the printer via the USB cable, an image data file described in the script; and

performing, at the printer, a print operation of an image based on the received image data file [[,]]

~~wherein an extension tag corresponding to the extended function is inserted into the script while remaining an existing tag in the predetermined print control protocol, and~~

~~wherein the extended function includes at least one of a PIM function and an Exif printing function.~~

Claims 2-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The image processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the printer performs image processing specified by the extension tag with respect to image data in the received image data file, and

wherein the printer performs the print operation based on the image data which has been subjected to the image processing.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The image processing method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the image processing is that another image is combined with an original image of the image data.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The image processing method as set forth in claim 11, wherein the another image is a frame image.

Claims 13-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A direct printing system, comprising:

a digital camera, operable to store an image data file; and

a printer, connected to the digital camera via a USB cable,

wherein each of the digital camera and the printer comprises:

a communication controller, operable to communicate, between the digital camera and the printer via the USB cable, a control information item including a script described by a markup language; and

a script generator, operable to confirm whether an extended function in a predetermined function is executable in both of the digital camera and the printer, ~~and~~ operable to generate the script ~~in which~~ while inserting an extension tag corresponding to the extended function ~~is inserted while remaining an existing tag in the predetermined print control protocol~~ into the script, in a case where it is confirmed the extended function is executable, and operable to generate the script without inserting an extension tag corresponding to the extended function into the script, in a case where it is confirmed the extended function is not executable,

wherein the digital camera is operable to transmit, to the printer via the USB cable, an image data file described in the script, and

wherein the printer is operable to perform a print operation of an image based on the received image data file ~~[[,]]~~ and

~~wherein the extended function includes at least one of a PIM function and an Exif printing function.~~

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A printer, adapted to be directly connected to a digital camera storing image data via a USB cable, the printer comprising:

- a communication controller, operable to
 - communicate a control information item including a script described by a markup language;
 - confirm whether an extended function in a predetermined print control protocol is executable in both of the digital camera and the printer;
 - receive, from the digital camera via the USB cable, an image data file described in the script; and
 - perform a print operation of an image based on the received image data file and the extended function,
- wherein ~~the extended function includes at least one of a PIM function and an Exif printing function~~ an extension tag corresponding to the extended function is inserted into the script in a case where it is confirmed the extended function is executable, and
- wherein no extension tag corresponding to the extended function is inserted into the script in a case where it is confirmed the extended function is not executable.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A digital camera, adapted to be directly connected to a printer operable to perform a print operation, via a USB cable, the digital camera comprising:

- a storage, storing an image data file;
 - a communication controller, operable to communicate a control information item including a script described by a markup language; and
 - a script generator, operable to confirm whether an extended function in a predetermined print control protocol is executable in both of the digital camera and the printer, ~~and operable to generate the script in which~~ while inserting an extension tag corresponding to the extended function is inserted while remaining an existing tag in the predetermined print control protocol into the script, in a case where it is confirmed the extended function is executable, and operable to generate the script without inserting an extension tag corresponding to the extended function into the script, in a case where it is confirmed the extended function is not executable
- ~~wherein the extended function includes at least one of a PIM function and an Exif printing function.~~

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A computer program product comprising a computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon a computer program which causes a computer to execute the direct printing method as set forth in claim 1.

Claims 21-26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The direct printing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the extended function includes a marginless printing function.